

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAPE T 01428 041222Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-05 EUR-12 OMB-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W  
-----036118 041656Z /46

R 041200Z OCT 77  
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6468  
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 1428

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SF  
SUBJECT: VORSTER REJECTS CALL FOR COLORED REFERENDUM ON NEW  
CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

REF: CAPE TOWN 1371

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER HAS, EXPECTEDLY,  
REJECTED CALL BY "COLORED" LABOR PARTY THAT ELECTION BE  
HELD IN COLORED COMMUNITY ON NOVEMBER 30 TO SERVE AS  
REFERENDUM ON PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.  
END SUMMARY

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT LABOR PARTY INTENDED TO  
INTRODUCE MOTION IN CRC ASKING STATE PRESIDENT TO  
DISSOLVE CRC AND HOLD NEW ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 30 TO  
COINCIDE WITH ELECTION OF NEW WHITE PARLIAMENT. LABOR  
PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON MADE CLEAR THAT PURPOSE OF ELEC-  
TION WOULD BE TO SERVE AS REFERENDUM ON SAG'S PROPOSED  
CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES. CRC SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED MOTION  
BY NARROW MARGIN WITH FEDERAL PARTY AND MOST INDE-  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAPE T 01428 041222Z

PENDENTS VOTING AGAINST. LEON FOLLOWED UP ON SEPT.  
27 WITH TELEGRAM TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ASKING  
THAT HE APPROVE NEW CRC ELECTION.

2. IN A LETTER TO LEON WHICH WAS READ IN CRC ON  
OCT. 3, VORSTER REJECTED CALL FOR NEW CRC ELEC-  
TIONS CITING, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) LEON AND LABOR PARTY HAD REPEATEDLY REJECTED CRC AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, (B) THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TIME TO SET ELECTORAL MACHINERY IN MOTION AND HAVE BALLOTS PRINTED BY NOVEMBER 30, (C) IF ELECTIONS WERE TO BE CALLED ON BASIS OF FULLY ELECTED CRC (PRESENT CRC IS 2/3 ELECTED, 1/3 APPOINTED) LAW WOULD HAVE TO BE AMENDED BY PARLIAMENT AND NEW DELIMITATIONS MADE.

3. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, LEON TERMED VORSTER'S REJECTION "AUTOCRATIC" BUT "PREDICTABLE." HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR SAG "WAS SCARED" TO ALLOW COLOREDS TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION ON NEW PROPOSALS AND ASSERTED THAT IF COLORED AND INDIAN ELECTIONS WERE TO BE HELD, COMBINATION OF OPPOSITION WHITE VOTES PLUS ANTI-SAG COLORED AND INDIAN VOTES WOULD RESULT IN ANTI-SAG MAJORITY WHICH WOULD BE "EMBARRASSING" TO THE SAG.

4. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, SAG AGREEMENT TO COLORED ELECTIONS AT THIS TIME WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY SINCE MOST LIKELY RESULT WOULD BE ENHANCED LABOR PARTY AND HENCE ANTI-SAG MAJORITY. SAG IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PROPOSALS NEXT YEAR WILL BE MUCH EASIER WITH INCUMBENT CRC IN WHICH LABOR PARTY REQUIRES VOTES OF TWO OR THREE INDEPENDENTS TO BE ABLE TO SCRAPE TOGETHER A BARE MAJORITY. WILLIAMS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM, MINORITIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 04-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAPET01428  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770361-1083  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CAPE TOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771096/aaaaddpl.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 79a4ef37-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 CAPE TOWN 1371  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1041621  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VORSTER REJECTS CALL FOR COLORED REFERENDUM ON NEW CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, SF, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/79a4ef37-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009